Notes on trans

re trans port: 1) del lagrace volcano, 2) buck angel internet
re margins: it might make sense to invite veronica vera to contribute something
love, chris

Mireille

I do not know if it's true that there's no porn connecting to the trans and genderqueer community right now though you are right that the current mainstream visibility of trans* lives has evacuated the sexual from their concerns and portrayal. Shine Louise Houston's work is popular, including Heavenly Spire which focuses on transmen. Beyond Tobi Hill Mayer I do not know much about transwomen's feminist porn but I have a fabulous new PhD student, Beatrix McBride who holds a BA and MA from University of Michigan where she worked with Gayle Rubin and earned a library science degree, who is going to be doing her doctoral work on transwomen in porn. I'm excited because no one is doing that scholarship and she is the brilliant perfect person to do it. Anyway, she may be much more familiar with where to locate the trans and genderqueer porn that is circulating in those communities right now. If you'd like I could put you in touch with her. She would enjoy the opportunity to converse I'm sure.

JB

Thanks for telling me about the anthology on porny narrative films. I think they won't have any problems finding films, scholars and editors for that project. The internet groups on nude celebrities (gay and straight) identify many films I haven't heard of—a lot of them from Europe, a few from the US, plenty of straight-to-video (e.g., Now and Later, arty films about older women on sex tours in Africa). POCs do figure in a lot of them. There's also a handful of gay narratives, including Travis Mathew's "I Want Your Love," also with one or two POCs, and sexually explicit 3rd world narratives with all-native casts. I haven't seen Bruce La Bruce's recent work—could there be POCs among the zombies in his zombie film?

I love your point about porn's intertextuality with/influence on sexual representation in narrative cinema. Mathews discusses the difference between his work and gay porn in interviews.

I haven't seen any sexually explicit representations of trans characters in narrative films. Cal Culver/Casey Donovan played a transvestite in one of his early hardcore films. Poole had a trans character in "The Hustlers".

Alilunas

Your third question definitely reminded me of stuff that Whitney Strub and Lucas Hilderbrand have been doing — especially Lucas, who gave a presentation on the importance of gay pornography to the development of the gay community in the 1970s at the conference I put together at Michigan a couple years back. But yes, I have also wondered about this in regards to trans and genderfluid communities. Jiz Lee's essay in the Feminist Porn Book gets at the heart of this a little bit, and certainly Buck Angel's stuff is along these lines. The futanari question is a great one… aside from an SCMS paper some years ago, I've never seen anyone talk about it… even though T-girls and futanari, etc. are explosively popular genres on the tube sites. Very thought provoking questions…

I regret that I am too overwrought/overwhelmed with other writing commitments at present to take this on. I can think on possible colleagues who might be interested - one who comes to mind immediately is Ryan Powell at Indiana U - he works on gay porn, art cinema and cinema sexuality so would have interesting angles I think on the second volume. The other person is Damon Young, who is finishing a book about female and queer sexual visibility, the making public of sex, across different modes of production from art cinema to porn, and thinks a lot in his work about the explicit sex act.

I agree with you about distinction between art film and porn - as it especially gets murky in the arena of LGBT and POC uses of erotic media more generally, and especially in relationship to the history of experimental films and art works being treated *as* porn by obscenity law. If the argument is about thinking explicit sex outside of its customary province in porn, that makes sense I

suppose, but nevertheless many 70s porn films have a significant quotient of narrative to complicate this, as you rightly suggest. It would be slightly strange to inadvertently segment off the LGBTQ angle to the second volume. I am trying to think about explicit trans sex and this becomes challenging too, but I have not kept up, although there seems to be so much happening independently, in places like Original Plumbling, FTM Fucker and elsewhere. I wonder what the art cinema trans explicit sex variant is but I feel woefully undersourced...and explicit